

Commission Notes

National survey reveals arts mean big business for three Hoosier communities

According to a nationwide survey, America's nonprofit arts industry generates \$134 billion in economic activity every year, resulting in more than \$24 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues annually. For the three Indiana cities included in the survey, the arts mean big business.

Bloomington, Lafayette/Tippecanoe County, and Indianapolis were among 91 cities, towns and communities in 33 states and the District of Columbia included in the study commissioned by Americans for the Arts (AFTA). The yearlong survey of 3,000 nonprofit arts organizations and 40,000 arts event attendees represents the most comprehensive economic impact study of the nonprofit arts industry ever conducted in the United States.

On a national scale, the \$134 billion generated annually by the nonprofit arts industry includes \$53.2 billion in spending by arts organizations, and \$80.8 billion in event-related spending by arts audiences.

The \$134 billion in total economic activity also represents:

- 4.85 million full-time equivalent jobs
- \$89.4 billion in household income
- \$6.6 billion in local tax revenues
- \$7.3 billion in state tax revenues
- \$105 billion in federal tax revenues

The three Indiana cities selected for the AFTA survey reflect one major metropolitan area (Indianapolis), one city of less than 100,000 population (Bloomington), and one community of less than 250,000 population (Lafayette / Tippecanoe County). Bloomington and the Lafayette / Tippecanoe County

communities were also selected to reflect rural influences.

For these three communities alone, the nonprofit arts industry generated a total of nearly \$349.5 million in economic activity during the survey period of 2000 to 2001. This included almost \$187.2 million in arts organization spending and \$162.3 million in events-related spending by arts audiences.

The \$349.5 million generated by the nonprofit arts industry in these three Indiana communities also was responsible for generating:

- 12,317 full-time equivalent jobs
- \$269 million in household income
- \$12 million in local tax revenues
- \$24.4 million in state tax revenues

"We were pleased to see the numbers from this survey," said Shelley Lowenberg-DeBoer, director of the Tippecanoe Arts Federation in Lafayette which collected local data for the study. "These results prove what we in the arts community have been saying for some time: the arts contribute to the economic health and growth of our community."

The study focused only on nonprofit arts organizations and events, and did not include for-profit activities such as movie theaters, commercial radio, or live music in restaurants or bars.

"When you consider these statistics multiplied in communities of all sizes throughout our state, it becomes clear the arts are big-business in Indiana, and contribute to the economic health of our state," said Dorothy L. Ilgen, executive director of the Indiana Arts Commission.

Tippecanoe County group seeks local tax support for the arts

In what may be a first for the state of Indiana, a group of arts organization supporters seeks a share of Economic Development Income Tax funds.



Jim Bodenmiller

The proposal was presented to the Tippecanoe County commissioners by Jim Bodenmiller, a member of an ad hoc Chamber of Commerce cultural task force and Vice-chair of the Indiana Arts Commission. The plan asks for an appropriation of \$250,000 a year, for three years, to support capital projects for 10 arts and cultural organizations.

Bodenmiller pointed out that the local arts community faces reduced contributions on the local level and decreased funding from the state level.

"I think the need was always there, but now it's much more critical with all the cutbacks in sources of revenue for these organizations," Bodenmiller told the Lafayette Journal & Gazette.

Bodenmiller said for each \$1 of EDIT funds invested in local arts organizations, at least \$5 would be generated in the local economy through related arts spending.

Commissioners tabled further consideration of the EDIT proposal until July. Similar presentations are expected to be made to the city councils in both Lafayette and West Lafayette.

Hoosier youth to benefit from NEA grants

Three Indiana organizations are among nearly 250 groups scheduled to receive almost \$2.3 million from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

Eileen B. Mason, acting chair of the NEA, announced 249 grants would be distributed to organizations in 48 states and the District of Columbia through the Challenge America: Positive Alternatives for Youth program.

The Bloomington Juvenile Correctional Facility will receive a \$10,000 grant to support a partnership project with Indiana University Creative Learning Center. The project will provide yearlong multidisciplinary arts instruction for students age 13 - 18 living in a residential juvenile offender facility. A \$5,000 grant will be made to

Interaction Theatre, Inc. of Indianapolis. The money will be used to help support a partnership project with The Rise Extended Living Shelter to provide theatre training, especially improvisational acting, for children living in this shelter for battered families. Instruction will be offered on a weekly basis during after-school hours to youth living in the shelter. Counselors will be provided to offer support to program participants.

Young Audiences of Indiana, Inc., in Indianapolis, will receive \$10,000 to support a partnership project with Marion County Juvenile Detention Center. The project will provide a series of arts residencies for juvenile offenders in music, story-telling, visual arts and theatre.

The Positive Alternatives for Youth grants are the second of three Challenge America subcategories announced this year.

Commissioner Sandra Neale honored at June quarterly meeting

After serving two four-year terms with the IAC, Commissioner Sandra Neale, Chesterton, is stepping down from the Commission.

Sandi shared her farewells with fellow Commissioners and IAC staff during the Commission's June 14th quarterly meeting at New Harmony.



Commissioners presented Sandi Neale with a glass vessel as a parting gift. Commissioners Bill Hopper (left) and Jack Schriber assisted with unwrapping. (IAC image)

"This Commission just gets better and better," Neale commented. "We are certainly leaner and meaner than we were when I started, but we are better. I have wonderful memories of the Commission."

Neale was also recently honored with a Sagamore of the Wabash award for her work on behalf of the arts in Indiana.

Arrivals:

- The IAC welcomes Janine DeHart to the staff as Grants / IT Manager. Janine has prior grants management experience with the Indiana Commission on Community Service and Volunteerism.
- The IAC also congratulates former Grants / IT Manager Stephanie Croaning and husband Jamie on the arrival of daughter Morgan born May 12 (Mothers' Day).

Former Commissioner Robert Shoemaker dies

MUNCIE - Former IAC Commissioner Robert N. Shoemaker, 90, passed away June 6.

Shoemaker was a former vice president of Warner Press, where he was employed for 36 years prior to his 1977 retirement.

In addition to serving as a member of the Commission, Shoemaker was founder of the Anderson Fine Arts Center. He was also a graduate of the Chicago Arts Institute.

Throughout his life, Shoemaker was also active in several Anderson civic organizations. He was also a Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest award presented by the State of Indiana.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Earl Martin Memorial Scholarship Fund at Anderson University.

Bill Blass was former GAA recipient

Noted fashion designer Bill Blass, a native of Fort Wayne, IN, passed away June 12 at the age of 79.

In addition to his many accomplishments in the field of fashion design, Blass was also a generous philanthropist.

In 1979 Blass was a recipient of the Indiana Governor's Arts Awards.

